

Appendix Showing Amendments to the Claims

1. (AMENDED) A purified and isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

(b) a polynucleotide which is complementary to the polynucleotide of (a),

(c) [a polynucleotide representing a naturally occurring mutant or polymorphic form of (a),

(d)]a polynucleotide that hybridizes with a polynucleotide of (a)[,] or (b)[, or (c)] under stringent conditions[, and

(e) a polynucleotide comprising at least 25 nucleotides of the polynucleotide of (a), (b) or (c), said 25 nucleotides being specific for *murE* gene of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*].

8. (AMENDED) A purified and isolated polypeptide having an amino acid sequence [selected from the group consisting of

(a) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence] of SEQ ID NO:2[,

(b) a polypeptide that is a naturally occurring mutant or polymorphic form of (a)].

9. (AMENDED) A method of determining whether a candidate compound is an inhibitor of a *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MurE polypeptide comprising:

(a) providing at least one host cell harboring an expression vector that includes a polynucleotide [selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a polynucleotide] encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2[.

- (ii) a polynucleotide which is complementary to the polynucleotide of (i),
- (iii) a polynucleotide representing a naturally occurring mutant or polymorphic form of (i)], and
- (b) contacting at least one of said cells with the candidate to permit the interaction of the candidate with the MurE polypeptide, and
- (c) determining whether the candidate is an inhibitor of the MurE polypeptide by ascertaining the relative activity of the polypeptide in the presence of the candidate.

15. (AMENDED) A method of determining whether a candidate compound is an inhibitor of a *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MurE polypeptide comprising:

- (a) providing a sample that includes a MurE polypeptide [selected from the group consisting of:
 - (i) a polypeptide] having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2[.
 - (ii) a polypeptide that is a functional derivative of the polypeptide of (i),
 - (iii) a polypeptide representing a naturally occurring mutant or polymorphic form of (i)], and
- (b) contacting said sample with the candidate to permit the interaction of the candidate with the MurE polypeptide, and
- (c) determining whether the candidate is an inhibitor of the MurE polypeptide by ascertaining the relative activity of the MurE polypeptide in the presence of the candidate.

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